



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TURNER on Passage of Homeland Security Spending Bill**

Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, issued the following statement today upon passage in the House of Representatives of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2005.

**“The passage of this bill is critical to getting money out to the front lines to protect our homeland.**

**As the terrible event in Saudi Arabia today reminds us, we are at war against a brutal enemy and must remain vigilant.**

**Regrettably, since the Administration’s budget dramatically underfunds homeland security, many of the critical security gaps faced by this country are not addressed,”** said Turner.

Turner identified many shortfalls not addressed by the spending bill in his floor speech last night:

- This bill fails to provide the additional \$200 million needed to ensure that nuclear materials and dirty bombs can be detected at all of our seaports and border crossings by next year;
- It fails to provide sufficient funding – at least \$1 billion – to improve the security of our rail and public transit systems,
- It fails to provide over \$400 million that the Coast Guard says it needs to protect our nation’s ports.
- It does not provide sufficient funds for airports across the country to upgrade or install explosive detection systems;
- It does not provide the \$100 million need to increase the number of personnel who guard our nation’s northern and southern borders; and
- It fails to provide the needed communications, equipment and training for our nation’s first responders.

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